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BECAUSE OF EASTER VACATION, THERE WILL BE NO BULLETINS ON MARCH 29. NEXT ISSUE WILL BE APRIL 5.

MAYNARD OWEN WILLIAMS

LIKE AN ITALIAN PAINTING IS THIS PICTURE OF A DRESSED-UP SLOVAK GIRL (Bulletin No. 1)

Bulletin No. 1, March 22, 1948

Czechoslovakia Plans Sokol Games in June

CZECHOSLOVAKIA's eleventh Sokol games are scheduled for next June. What are the Sokols?

They are non-military gymnastic organizations. They flourish throughout Bohemia, Moravia-Silesia, and Slovakia (illustration, cover), the three provinces of the North Carolina-size state in Europe's center. Of Czechoslovakia's 12,000,000 postwar population, nearly a million are devotees of Sokol gymnasiums.

30,000 Perform in Mass Drills

The Sokols hold frequent local and regional displays of their calisthenic perfection. Every six years, normally, they hold an All-Sokol Congress at Prague (Praha), the national capital. Drills, contests, and processions are spread over a full month.

In mass drills, 20,000 to 30,000 men or women or children at one time perform before enormous crowds on the vast field of the State Masaryk Stadium overlooking the city. About 150,000 participated in the competitions of the tenth congress in 1938.

Far more than a union for gymnastic precision, however, the Sokol idea has built traditions of voluntary discipline, self-reliance, strength, culture, and independence. Sokol means falcon, a bird that symbolizes heroic manhood to Slav peoples.

Founded in Bohemia in 1862 when the Czechs were Hapsburg Empire subjects, the movement was inspired by Italy's struggle for freedom. It spread rapidly through the Slavic world. America's first Sokol was formed by St. Louis Slavs in 1865. A 1947 Sokol exhibition filled Soldiers' Field, Chicago. American Sokols had planned to visit Prague in 1948.

Lost Territories Reclaimed in 1945

Czechs in the republic's agricultural and industrial west which was long Austrian, and Slovaks in the poorer, forested eastern highlands that were Hungarian, worked together fairly well after the formation of the independent state in 1918. Strong German, Polish, and Hungarian minorities made it a house divided, however, as German pressure built to the climax of 1938.

In 1945, the restored government reclaimed territories lost to Germany, Poland, and Hungary. Expulsion of Sudeten Germans and cession of Ruthenia (Carpatho-Ukraine), the state's eastern tip, to the Soviet Union accounts for most of the 2,000,000 drop from the 1938 population.

Despite heavy suffering, Czechoslovakia was less war-ravaged than some of its neighbors. Food production has been restored. Industries have been able to resume production of glassware and porcelain, textiles, machinery, shoes, and foodstuffs.

Czech farmers use modern methods in raising grains, potatoes, sugar beets, and hops. Extensive forests make timber, paper, and cellulose im-

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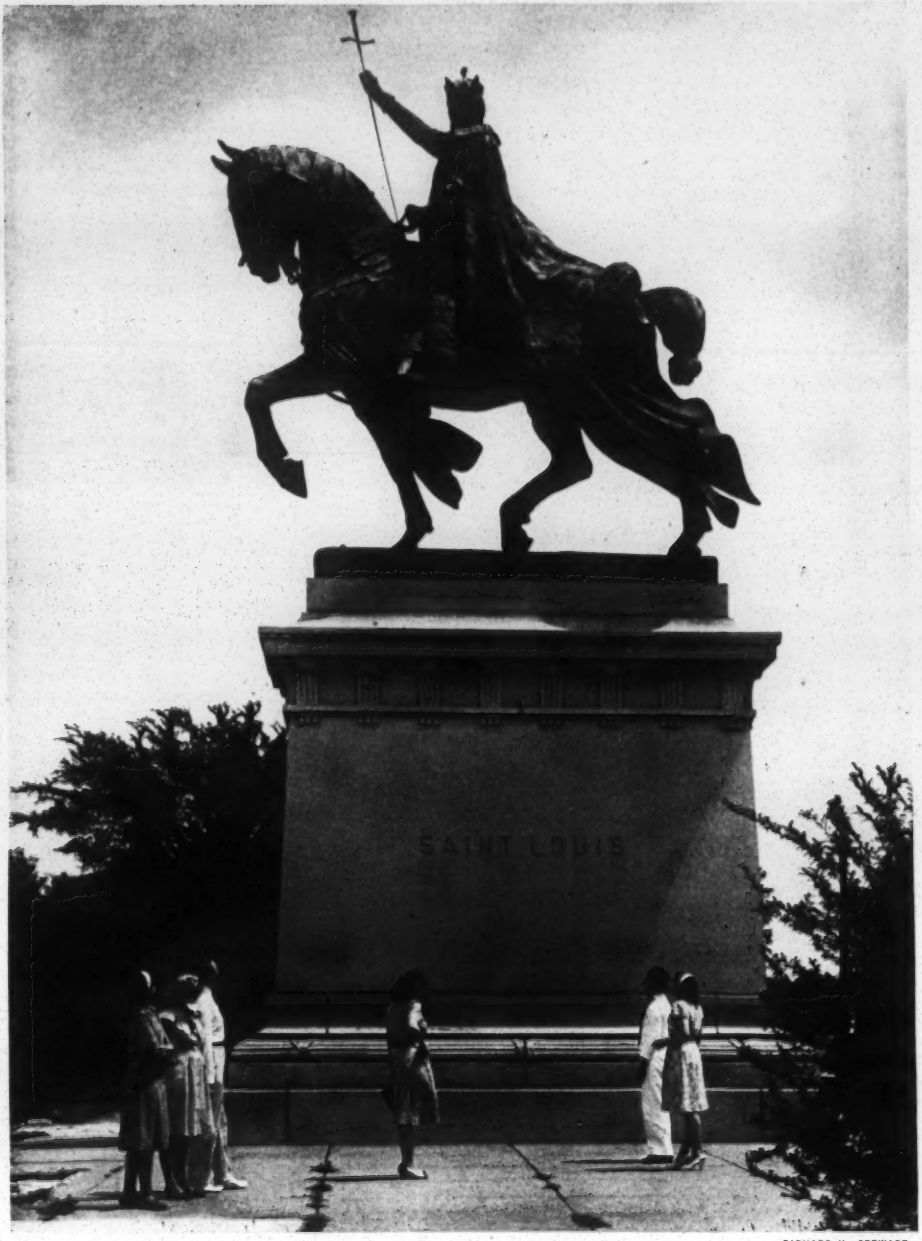

RICHARD H. STEWART

ST. LOUISANS CRANE THEIR NECKS AT THEIR CITY'S NAMESAKE SAINT

Louis IX, King of France, lived in the 13th century, took part in the Crusades, and was made a saint shortly after his death. Four centuries later, in his honor, a Mississippi River trading post in France's vast Louisiana Territory had its name changed from Laclede's Village to St. Louis. This statue was erected for the World Fair of 1904, a century after the United States purchase of Louisiana. It stands in Forest Park in front of the art museum—also built for the fair (Bulletin No. 2).

Bulletin No. 2, March 22, 1948

St. Louis Schedules 1953 World Fair

"MEET me in St. Louis, Louis, meet me at the fair."

Millions of people from all over the world may be lilting St. Louisward in 1953 to the catchy theme tune which dates back to the city's Louisiana Purchase Exposition of 1904. Citizens of the Missouri metropolis are counting on it.

In 1923, St. Louis embarked on a civic program that called for clearing slum areas, improving water and sanitary systems, widening streets, building new parks, playgrounds, and boulevards. A decade later, plans for the ambitious Jefferson National Expansion Memorial on the Mississippi River front were added to the improvement program.

Smoke-free City

Many of the projects are complete. To prove their capacity for doing the impossible, St. Louisans since 1940 have virtually removed the pall of soft-coal smoke that formerly hung over the city. They did it by observing laws controlling chimney smoke from homes and factories. Smog no longer blankets the shoes, furs, beer, mules, and streetcars (illustration, next page) for which St. Louis is renowned.

Since 1945, committees of citizens have been at work on the proposed Louisiana Purchase 150th anniversary exposition, viewing it as a spur to the long-term civic program. They recall that their 1904 fair ended free of debt, gave the city its handsome art museum, and touched off an era of expansion and beautification (illustration, inside cover).

Pierre Laclede had established the fur-trading post of St. Louis in 1764. For Americans, however, St. Louis began as a town of 1,000 in 1803 when President Jefferson purchased the vast Louisiana territory from Napoleon.

In 1899, St. Louisans, still irked at having lost the Columbian Exposition to Chicago, organized for their 1903 centennial project. An avalanche of exhibit acceptances, representing nearly every American state and 62 foreign countries, forced postponement of the opening to 1904.

Forest Park Again to Be Fair Site

The St. Louis World's Fair, as it was generally known, spread over most of the two square miles of Forest Park, six miles west from the river front. Some 240 acres were under roof. Open 184 days from April 30 through November, it tallied 18,700,000 visitors—more than 100,000 a day. According to one legend, the ice-cream cone was born at the fair when a vendor started packing his hokeypokey in curled waffles.

In 1953, Forest Park will again be the principal site. The largest of the many St. Louis recreational areas, it is one of America's biggest municipal parks. It holds the St. Louis Zoo with its cageless bear pits and a birdhouse called the largest in the world.

The park contains an open-air theater with revolving stage where the St. Louis Municipal Opera plays to nightly summer audiences of 10,000 people. Its Jefferson Memorial houses trophies of the Lindbergh flight

portant among exports. Mines along the frontiers produce coal, iron, copper, lead, silver, and uranium. In Bohemian pitchblende, radium was first discovered.

Prague, in Bohemia, thoroughly modern in its newer portions, is an old and beautiful city of nearly a million people (illustration, below). To its southwest, Plzen (Pilsen) is known for pale beer and armaments. West at the German border are world-renowned mineral springs.

Brno and Ostrava in Moravia-Silesia are the state's ranking cities after Prague. Fourth in size is Bratislava, Slovak capital, touching the Danube in Czechoslovakia's southern tip.

NOTE: Czechoslovakia is shown on the National Geographic Society's map of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. Write the Society's headquarters, Washington 6, D. C., for a price list of maps.

For further information, see "A Tale of Three Cities," in the *National Geographic Magazine* for December, 1945; "Czechoslovaks, Yankees of Europe," August, 1938*; and "When Czechoslovakia Puts a Falcon Feather in Its Cap," January, 1933. *(Issues marked with an asterisk are included on a special list of Magazines available to teachers in packets of ten for $1.00.)*

See also, in the GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS, November 27, 1944, "Czechoslovakia Starts to Revive."

W. ROBERT MOORE

GOOD KING WENCESLAUS IS MORE THAN A CHRISTMAS CAROL CHARACTER TO CZECHS

The Bohemian ruler, here honored by a statue in Prague's Wenceslaus Square, is his country's patron saint. This wide street in Czechoslovakia's capital is the finest in the middle-European land. Hotels, stores, and coffee shops line its sidewalks.

Bulletin No. 3, March 22, 1948

Mauritius Brings Constitution Up to Date

THE voteless woman is as "extinct as the dodo bird" on Mauritius, British colony in the Indian Ocean. The populous island, from which the dodo disappeared nearly three centuries ago, recently adopted a constitution which extends the voting privilege to both sexes.

The Portuguese, who discovered the island early in the 16th century, found the bird, a clumsy cousin of the pigeon, "in residence," and named it "duodo," meaning simpleton. Bigger than a turkey, the bulky dodo had wings too small to be used for flying, legs too short for running away, and a large head with hooked bill—of little use in defense. It was easy prey for sailors with clubs, and for dogs. A dodo was exhibited in London in 1634, but the species was seen no more after about 1681.

Hindus Predominate in Population

Roughly oval in shape, Mauritius is 40 miles long and half as large as Long Island, New York. The island is of volcanic formation, with jagged mountains pointing sharp peaks toward the sky (illustration, next page). Caves and underground streams bore beneath the rugged surface.

Coral reefs fence in its cape-and-bay scalloped shores. The fertile soil of its valleys and coastal regions is well suited to growing sugar cane.

Mauritius is one of the earth's densely settled areas. The largest of the many racial groups represented by the island's 425,000 people are sugar plantation laborers from India. They were brought to the island after Great Britain passed the law abolishing slavery in 1833. Most of these Indians are Hindus.

Mark Twain, who stopped on Mauritius for two weeks in 1896, was delighted with its scenery. He wrote of "the undulating wide expanses of sugar cane . . . the ragged luxuriance of tropic vegetation . . . shady dense forest with limpid streams . . . continually glimpsed and lost . . . in hide-and-seek fashion, quaint and picturesque groups of toy peaks, and a dainty little vest-pocket Matterhorn."

Although sugar cane, date palm, and coconut have replaced native plants on the coasts, lush forest and jungle growth still cover the hills, which rise to a 2,700-foot top. Trees valuable for their timber include ebony and olive. The ironwood and the traveler's tree grow in profusion. Bamboo sends slender jointed poles upward from the marshes. Fig, tamarind, mango, banana, and avocado yield their fruit.

Numerous Nations Held Mauritius

The capital of Mauritius is Port Louis, a city of 58,000 on the northwest coast of the island. Because the coastal areas are hot during the dry season—from December through April—the English colony, one of the largest in the tropics, lives at Curepipe, 16 miles up in the highlands behind Port Louis.

Discovered by the Portuguese in 1505, the island was taken by the Dutch nearly a century later. Its new owners named it in honor of Prince Maurice of Nassau, who had led the Dutch armies to victory over

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and records of Lewis and Clark. Year-round floral displays attract crowds to the Jewel Box, a large greenhouse.

Sharing honors as the 1953 exposition site will be the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial area. Outmoded buildings covering 40 blocks of the city's old river front were razed in 1940 and 1941. Only such landmarks as the venerable Cathedral of St. Louis, the courthouse where the Dred Scott case was twice tried, and the fur and hides warehouse of Manuel Lisa were preserved. The 83-acre area is now administered by the National Park Service.

Plans for landscaping and buildings for the river-front memorial are being determined from results of an architectural contest sponsored by the city. The prize-winning proposal for a 590-foot stainless-steel parabolic-arch "gateway to the West" recently attracted nation-wide interest.

NOTE: St. Louis may be located on the Society's map of The United States of America.

For additional information, see "These Missourians," in the *National Geographic Magazine* for March, 1946*; and "Missouri, Mother of the West," April, 1923.

RICHARD H. STEWART

ST. LOUIS STREETCARS ADVERTISE THEIR MISSOURI BIRTHPLACE ALONG THE CAR LINES OF MANY OTHER CITIES

Bulletin No. 4, March 22, 1948

New Uranium Fields Boost World Resources

THE world is expanding its known sources of uranium, vital mineral of the Atomic Age. Both newly independent Burma and the Union of South Africa have announced the discovery of extensive uranium deposits.

These latest finds are further evidence that the atomic-energy ore is much more widely distributed around the globe than popularly believed. And the South African discovery lends weight to reports that gold and uranium are bedfellows. As a result of tests, it is expected that much radioactive material will be found not only in South Africa's famous gold-bearing formations, but also in dumps remaining from the many old mines along the Witwatersrand (illustration, next page).

Pitchblende Has Been Best Source

Prospecting for uranium lodes is much simpler than searching for gold. The uranium can be easily detected by a scientific "divining rod." Radioactive by nature, the mineral literally broadcasts its whereabouts in the ground. Forty years ago Hans Geiger, a German scientist, invented the instrument which hunts out the hidden ore. His invention, now known as the Geiger counter, registers the radioactive emissions of uranium and thus leads prospectors to the mineral's location.

Best source of uranium has been a mineral compound called pitchblende. It was mined at St. Joachimsthal, in old Austria, as early as 1517. The mines there continued to produce as much as 150,000 tons of crude uranium ore yearly before the war.

Pitchblende has long been used as a source of coloring for pottery. It also yields by-products useful for photography, medicinal purposes, fluorescent glass-making, and the making of luminous paint.

The St. Joachimsthal mines have the historic distinction of supplying the pitchblende from which Madame Curie isolated the first radium just fifty years ago. Radium exists in all uranium minerals. The St. Joachimsthal pits now are part of Czechoslovakia, and are known currently as the Jachymov mines.

Colorado Biggest Domestic Producer

The Belgian Congo contains the largest proven pitchblende deposits. Elizabethville, near the mines, boomed during wartime to a town of 20,000, nearly all African natives. In 1940, it exported to the United States more than 1,000 tons of uranium ore. United States Marines guarded the operations. By 1943, the Belgian Congo shipments to the United States were cut in half due to shipping hazards. Canada's Great Bear Lake region supplanted the Congo as the principal source of supply.

Colorado has a record of pitchblende production. It heads the 48 states in mining fissionable matter (materials whose atoms split readily). During the war, the carnotite ores of Utah, Arizona, and Colorado were mined for their uranium content.

Uranium ores also have been reported from most other parts of the world—Mexico, Brazil, Argentina, Chile, England, France, Germany,

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the Spaniards. Netherlands occupation lasted until 1710. The French, who came next, founded Port Louis. They changed the island's name to Ile de France, cleared much of the forest, built forts and roads, and established sugar raising as the chief industry.

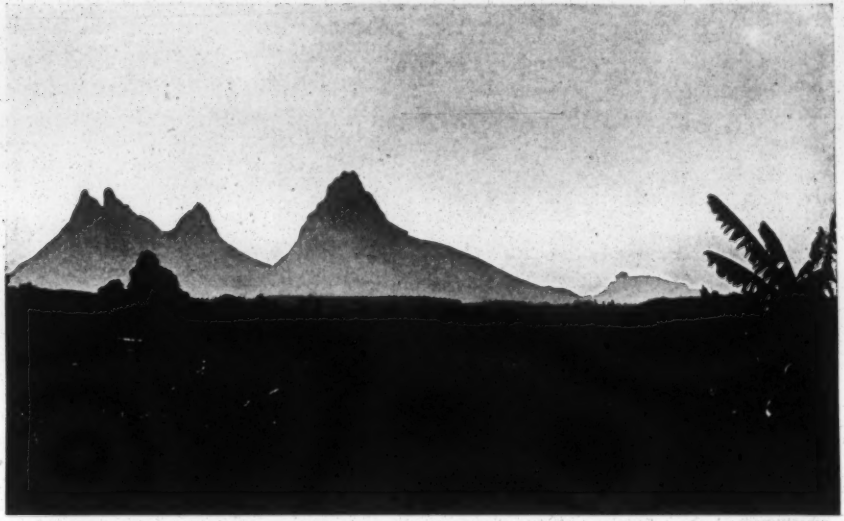
Because the Ile de France lay on England's route to India, the island was a menace to British ships during the war between France and England at the beginning of the 19th century. So the English captured it in 1810. Their ownership was confirmed by the Treaty of Paris in 1814.

Although the English restored the island's Dutch name, French customs lingered, and French is still the language most widely spoken.

Today, most of the island's cultivated acreage is planted in sugar cane. Fruits, coffee, spices, hemp, and vanilla beans are other important crops exported from Mauritius. Cyclones and torrential rains cause periodic damage, but sugar cane is a crop which resists cyclones.

NOTE: Mauritius is shown on the Society's map of the Indian Ocean.

For additional information about Mauritius, see "Around the World in the 'Islander,'" in the *National Geographic Magazine* for February, 1928.



HARRY PIDGEON

MAURITIAN MOUNTAINS ZIGZAG ACROSS THE ISLAND LIKE LINES ON A STATISTICAL CHART

According to a local tale, the spiky mountains of Mauritius were carved by a race of giants. In fantastic form, they point sharply skyward and then slope down to the steamy coastal plains. The level lands are planted to sugar cane in great quantities, a little rice, and many tropical fruits. A banana plant (right) lifts wind-fringed leaves like feathers on a lady's hat.

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Bulletin No. 5, March 22, 1948

Resorters Reach Isle of Man Beach by Radar

RADAR now paves the way for the more than half-million British, Scottish, and Irish vacationists who pour onto the Isle of Man every season. Douglas, the holiday island's port, has equipped its harbor to be the first radar-controlled anchorage in the British Isles. Next in line is Liverpool, great English port where most of Man's visitors embark on the 80-mile Irish Sea voyage to the "Monte Carlo of the North."

Douglas harbor is often fogbound, and in the height of the season crowded steamers arrive and depart almost constantly. Shore-based radar and shore-to-ship radio will help move this traffic safely.

One Day's Arrivals Double the Population

Fog and mist have been a traditional defense of often-captured Isle of Man. Mannanan Beg, its legendary first ruler, supposedly could throw out a circle of soupy weather whenever enemies approached. But today's islanders have no desire to halt the yearly vacation invasion.

At Douglas as many as 40,000 land in a single day—a number doubling the town's permanent population. Instead of the boardwalk of American beach resorts, Douglas sun-seekers have a three-mile-long promenade to stroll or ride along. Beach, promenade, and city form a huge crescent clinging to the shore of the bay.

Steamers tie up to Victoria Landing Pier at one end of the crescent. At the other end is the Villa Marina section, with gardens and terraces beside the sea. Between these terminals run small horse-pulled streetcars (illustration, next page), called toast racks because of their resemblance to English toast servers.

All Douglas attractions are not so sedate. Jazz bands play nightly in one of Europe's largest ballrooms. Two world-famous motorcycle races start at the edge of the town and shatter the silence of the countryside. Racing cars roar over a course laid out on the city streets. In the outskirts, Highlanders from Scotland put on a show of dances and games.

English Called "Come-overs"

A miniature train connects Douglas with Peel, a fishing town nine miles away on the west coast. North and south the island stretches 30 miles. Its 221 square miles are a museum of surprises and quaintness. The ancient Celtic tongue, Manx, is still spoken by a few of the 51,000 inhabitants. The Manx Church recently celebrated its reputed 1,500th anniversary. Crosses believed to date from the fifth century have been found on the island. Man's ancient parliament meets once a year in the open air on Tynwald Hill to promulgate the laws.

The island has been a possession of the British Crown since 1765, but it is largely self-governing and retains much of its individuality. The islanders call the English "come-overs." Even in geology, the Manxman shows his independence. He claims that at one time Great Britain and Ireland were parts of the Isle of Man.

An even older tradition holds that the island was formed when Finn

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Sweden, Portugal, Spain, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Soviet Union, Rhodesia, Madagascar, India, Manchuria, China, and the Philippines.

In most of these countries, however, the wealth of the ore lodes has not yet been accurately assessed, hence the total of the world's known supply of uranium is still to be computed.

The creation of atomic power, whether for bombs or other purposes, depends on the availability of materials whose atoms can be easily split by man. Thorium fits this description almost as well as uranium. The world's foremost thorium deposits are in Brazil and India.

NOTE: Regions where uranium ores have been discovered may be located on the Society's World Map.

See also, "Operation Crossroads," in the *National Geographic Magazine*, for April, 1947; and "Metal Sinews of Strength," April, 1942.

In the GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS, January 20, 1947, see "India's Travancore Has Atomic Material."

W. ROBERT MOORE

FROM SUCH GOLD-MINE WASTE IN THE TRANSVAAL, MEN MAY EXTRACT RICHES IN URANIUM

For 100 miles, great piles of tailings cover the Witwatersrand gold-mining belt just south of Johannesburg, Union of South Africa. Experts believe the dumps contain a workable percentage of the miracle atomic element and that in the main lode there is more uranium, unit for unit, than gold.

MacCool, an Irish Paul Bunyan, tore up a handful of Ireland and threw it at a giant enemy. A person standing on Snaefell, Man's highest point (2,034 feet) can see Ireland, England, and Scotland.

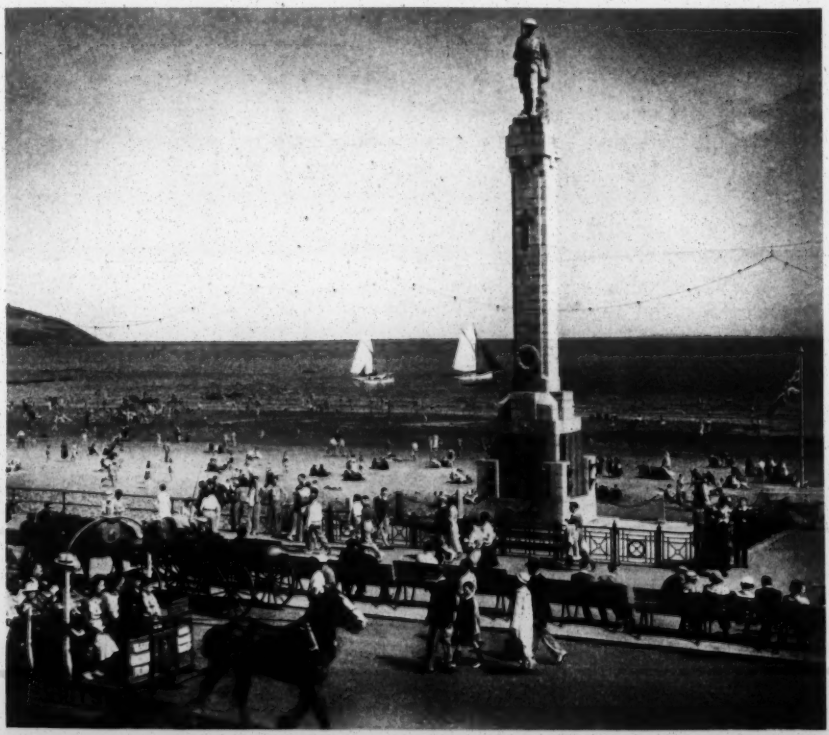
The Isle of Man has been ruled at various times by these three countries and Scandinavia. Before tourists became the No. 1 industry, fishing and smuggling were active trades.

Smugglers' profits built many of the fine 18th century mansions on the old harbor in Douglas. Many islanders through the next century produced linen, beer, leather, and tobacco. The once-rich lead, copper, iron, and zinc mines gave out. The sea yielded smaller herring catches. Large estates absorbed most small crofts. Then came the tourists.

Douglas does not monopolize the resort trade. The island's second city, historic Ramsey on the north coast, also has a spacious beach. Castle Rushen, in Castletown, dates back to 947 and is credited with being the most perfect building of its era in existence.

NOTE: The Isle of Man may be located on the Society's Modern Pilgrim's Map of the British Isles.

For additional information, see "The Isle of Man," in the *National Geographic Magazine* for May, 1937*; and, in the GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS, December 10, 1945, "Isle of Man's Parliament Meets in Open Air on Tynwald Hill."



B. ANTHONY STEWART

HORSECARS OF THE DOUGLAS PROMENADE PROVIDE VACATION FUN FOR ENGLISH WEEK-ENDERS

Last year agitation started in the Isle of Man capital to scrap the horse-drawn trams and install a bus system. But the town council voted overwhelmingly against it. During a similar controversy in the 1930's, the mayor said the time might come when visitors would journey to Man just to see a horse. The monument stands in memory of Manxmen who died in World War I.